

# ***Mark Magnuson***

**27106 Pine Circle ~ Harrisburg, South Dakota 57032**

December 31, 2001

Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
United States Department of Justice  
601 D Street N.W. - Suite 1200  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Renata Hesse:

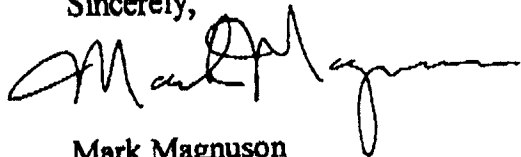
I was extremely pleased at the initial news of a settlement between the U.S. Justice Department and the Microsoft Corporation over the anti-trust suit brought by the Justice Department and various states' attorneys general. However, I became concerned when I heard that half of the states in the suit want to keep up the fight in the courts, and that it was also clear that they were being cheered on by Microsoft's competitors. I hope that common sense and fairness will prevail and that this four-year-old, very expensive suit will be allowed to finally settle. I support the settlement.

As a businessman in southeastern South Dakota, I know that business runs on Microsoft's Windows programs. Because the company has produced versatile, uncomplicated and affordable software that offers the best innovations, large and small businesses have been enabled to compete with access to the information highway. It certainly has enabled entrepreneurs to enter the business world at the same technical level of older firms, and that has been a major cornerstone for our state's economy.

From news stories, I have learned that the proposed settlement uses a means test to have Microsoft outfit the most economically needy schools and students with the tools they need to use the internet. The internet is the great equalizer in this age, and it is essential as learning to read and perform math to the success of each student. The settlement also resolves the issues which the courts decided needed to be resolved. I can't think what positive purpose can be served if Microsoft's antagonists are allowed to kill this settlement and drag this issue along for another year or two, because it is doubtful the continuation of this case will produce new findings of any substance.

As one who uses Windows in my work and at home, I am a satisfied customer, and I don't know any business people in the Sioux Falls region who have a beef with the quality of the software supplied by Microsoft. Spending more time and taxes on this case, I believe, would truly be a waste. Please allow this settlement to stand. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mark Magnuson